

Application No. 10/825,982  
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

**Amendments to the Drawings:**

Figs. 2 and 4 have been amended to correct the spelling of  
"FACSIMILE."

Attachment:     Annotated Sheets Showing Changes  
                  Replacement Sheets

**R E M A R K S**

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

**THE DRAWINGS**

Figs. 2 and 4 have been amended to correct the spelling of "FACSIMILE."

Submitted herewith are corrected sheets of formal drawings which incorporate the amendments and annotated sheets showing the changes made thereto.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the drawings be withdrawn.

**THE CLAIMS**

Claims 15-19 and 21-25 have been added based on (now canceled) claims 5-14 rewritten in better U.S. form, and claim 20 has been added based on the structure shown in Figs. 1-11.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that new claims 15-25 be approved and entered.

**THE PRIOR ART REJECTION**

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by US 2004/0059635 ("Chang et al"). This rejection,

however, is respectfully traversed with respect to the new claims set forth hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 15 and corresponding computer program claim 21, a process control method is provided which comprises storing, for each customer of a product, operator assigning information in which each production process to be performed to produce the product is assigned to a particular operator of a plurality of operators. Order information is input to order a product for a customer, and the order information includes customer identification information to identify the ordering customer and product identification information to identify the ordered product. An operator is then assigned to perform each production process to be performed to produce the ordered product, by referring to the operator assigning information corresponding to the ordering customer, based on the product identification information in the order information.

That is, according to the present invention as recited in new independent claims 15 and 21, the operator assigning information is created so that the (equipment) operators can be associated with various processes for producing (via the equipment) the product, which is not necessarily a photograph or produced in a photo laboratory, based on the customer

identification information. With this structure, the equipment and the operators are paired and reserved for the production of the product(s) ordered by the customer.

By contrast, although Chang et al does disclose a management system having a plurality of operators and technique for reminding operators of important tasks (paragraph [0098]), it is respectfully submitted that Chang et al et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest the assignment of each production process to particular operators in accordance with both the product and the customer in the manner of the claimed present invention as recited in new independent claims 15 and 21.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claims 15 and 21, and new claims 16-20 and 22-25 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Chang et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

\* \* \* \* \*

In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Holtz  
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.  
220 Fifth Avenue - 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001-7708  
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900  
DH:al/iv  
encs.



FIG. 1

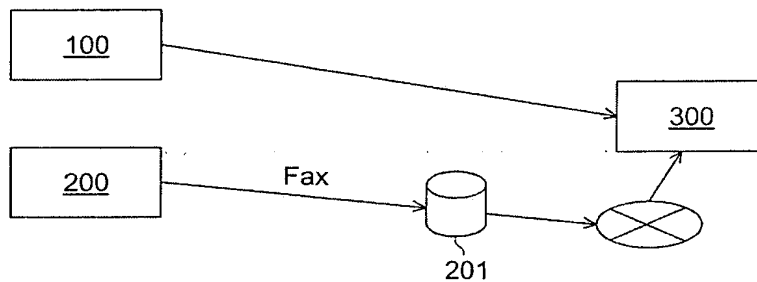


FIG. 2

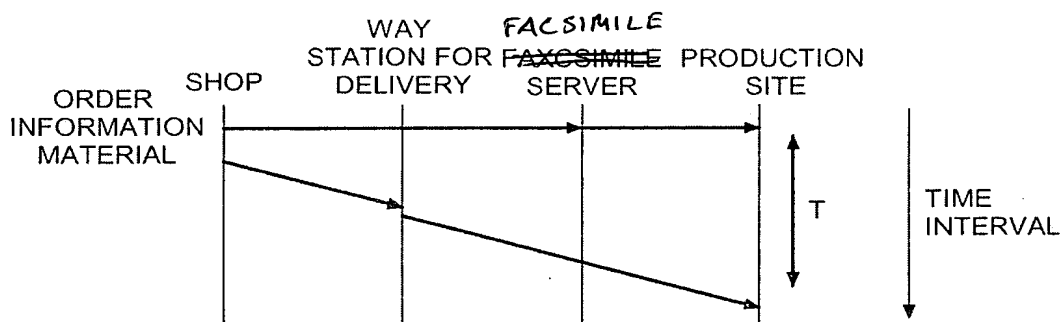


FIG. 3

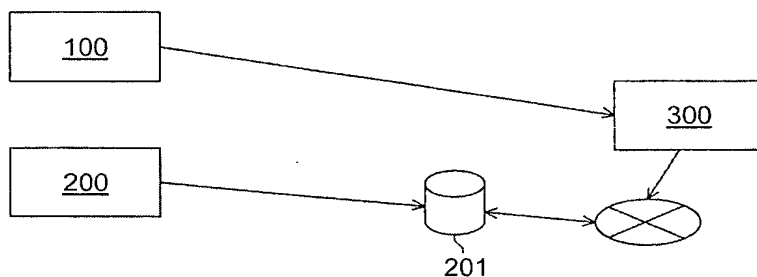


FIG. 4

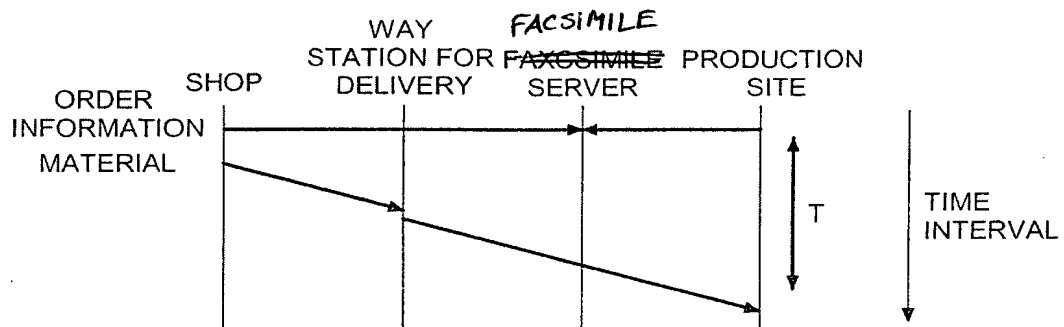


FIG. 5

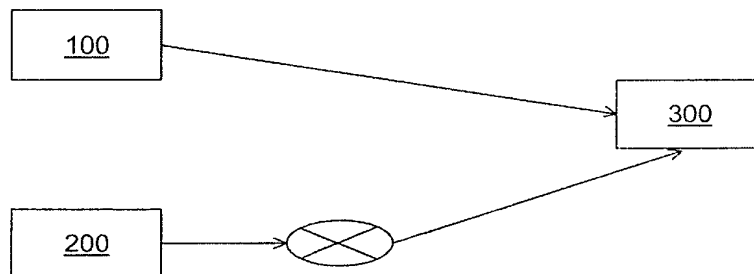


FIG. 6

